



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
EDUCATION ACTIVITY  
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPENDENTS EDUCATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUBJECT: DEC Meeting Minutes, June 21, 2006

On June 21, 2006, the Dependents Education Council (DEC) met at the Webb Building at 4040 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA. The meeting was hosted and chaired by Ms. Leslye Arsht, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy (MC&FP). A listing of attendees is attached.

DEC MEETING OVERVIEW:

Ms. Arsht provided opening comments highlighting MC&FP and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) collaboration efforts, transformation in the Europe and Pacific Theatres, and the Community Strategic Plan (CSP). She advised the attendees that these topics would be discussed later today. Following these introductions, she asked the DEC members to introduce themselves.

Dr. Tafoya then reviewed the agenda items to be presented and asked for corrections or changes to the November 7, 2005, DEC Minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.

The meeting proceeded with discussions and briefings of new and previous DEC issues.

These included:

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFINGS:

MC&FP and DoDEA Collaboration Efforts

Ms. Arsht briefed the MC&FP and DoDEA collaboration efforts. She stated that DoDEA's commitment to excellence continues to grow and that DoDEA has developed an expertise about the academic needs of military children and their emotional well being as no other school district in our nation possess. Ms. Arsht shared the vision statements of this effort, and commented that DoDEA has a reputation for providing a quality educational program with special programs in place to address the needs of military dependent students. DoDEA offers a world class curriculum that is rigorous and imparts

a high expectation for student performance. The goal is to offer options to schools that serve our military children.

The Partnership areas will include high quality teaching, professional development, program improvement, high school initiative, curriculum consistency and foreign languages.

Beginning in the 2006-07 school year, two or three pilot school systems will be identified and a partnership established. It is hopeful that Hawaii will be one of the partners. Neither DoDEA nor the Department can accomplish this vision alone, we must be ready to work with other Federal and state agencies and interested groups to make all this happen.

Additionally, DoDEA is working with military community and family policy to offer an education symposium or summit for military communities. Additionally, there is work underway with Johns Hopkins University to gather the best practices and education for military children through the military child initiative. MC&FP is distributing tool kits for commanders, parents and educators that can be used to assist local leadership and parents, to help with the transition issues, especially in these large BRAC related moves. Ms. Arsht stated that in working with the states and their departments of education, barriers affecting military students are being removed. She gave the example of Commonwealth of Virginia which now has a policy to remove barriers to military students transferring their credits to better meet the needs of the Virginia standards of learning. Additionally, Governor Kaine of Virginia added two more key military-friendly policies to Virginia's books which included access to instate tuition for military dependents and the ability for students to remain in the original K-12 school they attend, even if their service member parent is moved to another district in the state and without any tuition payment, which normally occurs in Virginia. As a follow-up, Major General Larsen highlighted the need for in-state tuition for military dependents who have parents assigned to overseas locations. He noted that unless the dependent attends a college located in the state of the military sponsor's home of record, they are required to pay out of state tuition rates. Dr. Tafoya stated that Ms. Arsht has been doing a lot of work with the National Governor's Association and that's probably the place that this issue could be addressed.

(Item Closed)

#### Data In-services Report

Dr. Tafoya reminded the members of past presentations on the use of various data and explained that he is encouraging DoDEA administrators to use available data to make an impact in the education of students. This data was made available to all of DoDEA's 221 schools and to the superintendents.

Based upon a meeting with DoDDS Europe Administrators, he conducted a Data In-Service Study with each area which analyzed all 221 DoDEA schools using the past 4 years of Terra Nova data. Each superintendent was provided a district report that listed key questions. Dr. Tafoya presented the data and led them through an exercise regarding the relevant data and the use of trends.

There were four specific models used which included Status Model, Improvement Model, Growth Model, and Value Added Model. The Status Model addressed the basic question of "On average how are students performing this year?" The Improvement model is the most common model used when looking at test scores nationwide and answers the question "How are students doing this year compared to what they were doing at the same grade last year?" The Growth Model answers the basic question of "How did individual students' performance change?" The Value Added Model basically answers "How did the change in student performance meet the growth expectation?"

Dr. Tafoya explained that evaluating data in this manner can facilitate identifying strengths and weaknesses. When examined, these differences indicate that while specific issues arise, there is no need to re-work the system, or do a massive training; DoDEA will go forth to analyze where the issues are and address them directly.

Following the briefing, a question was posed to Dr. Tafoya asking if DoDEA had data that showed how the students in the Pacific fared when compared to their counterparts in the other Areas. Dr. Tafoya indicated the data was available and he would be willing to distribute it to the Areas.

(Item Open)

#### Budget Update

Ms. Irma Finocchiaro, Associate Director for Financial and Business Operations, provided a briefing on the FY 2006/07 budget. The issues discussed SY 2006-07 demographics, trends, FY 2006 Budget Summary, Congressional/OSD Adjustments, challenges, and FY 2007 OSD Adjustments and the Next Steps.

A look at the Demographics for SY 2006-07 reveals there are 215 DoDDS and DDESS schools with an anticipated enrollment of 91,356. During the last few years, the enrollment has declined both within DoDDS and DDESS while funding has increased, causing a notable increase in per student cost.

Ms. Finocchiaro summarized that DoDEA's budget for FY 2006 was \$1.588 Billion, 97% of the budget includes fixed costs. The remaining funds are used for facility repair and maintenance, equipment repair and maintenance, travel, and miscellaneous

services, supplies and equipment. She discussed the various Congressional Adds and explained that while the \$59 million in Congressional Adds are part of DoDEA's budget, DoDEA only reap approximately \$5 or \$ 6 million in benefits from these Adds.

Ms. Finocchiaro also discussed the FY 2006 Congressional and OSD Reductions. When undistributed reductions of this nature are required by DoD, DoDEA is also required to participate in this effort along with the other DoD components. To meet the reduction requirement, the total reductions in DoDEA for FY 2006 were \$32.4M which included a contribution of \$6.5M for OSD Management Reserve.

Major challenges during FY 2006 included Living Quarters Allowance (LQA) and Post Allowances (PA) which were seriously impacted due to the weakness of the dollar in overseas locations, and a reduction in sustainment, restoration, and modernization funds. It is anticipated that the LQA will exceed \$173.8M which represents approximately 15.8% of DoDEA's payroll causing a funding shortfall of \$16.6M. This unfinanced requirement has been submitted to OSD. Due to the weakness of the dollar in foreign markets, the spending power of DoDEA's funds was decreased by approximately \$23.6M and this unfinanced requirement has also been submitted to OSD. DoDEA's total Sustainment (including HAZMAT), Restoration and Modernization Program was \$87.6M (95%) which has been revised to \$77.1M (86%).

The FY 2007 Budget Funds 13,114 Full Time Equivalents (\$1,106.3M), 59% (\$48.2M) of OSD Sustainment Requirement (\$82.5M), Summer School Program (\$3.3M), and Curriculum Buy for Social Studies, Foreign Language, Host Nation and Partial Immersion Programs (\$22M). It is anticipated that the FY 2007 OSD adjustments will total \$1.552.4M. Our next steps include Transformation Planning and Executions which entails changes in enrollment, school closures, staff realignment, disposition of excess supplies and equipment, and contract terminations.

(Item Open)

#### Military Construction Prioritization Process

Ms. Finocchiaro briefed the FY 2006 and 2007 Programs, FY2008-13 Funding guidance, Worldwide MILCON Prioritization Meeting Results and the FY 2008-2013 Program Summary.

The FY 2006 MILCON Funding Totaled \$99,478M which includes \$16,788M in DoDDS-E, \$34.362M in DDESS, and \$48.328M in DoDDS-P. DoDDS-E projects include an addition and renovation at Vilseck Elementary School, classroom addition at Landstuhl Elementary/Middle School, multipurpose building at Rota Elementary School/High School, and planning and design within DoDDS-E. DDESS Projects included Residential Communities Initiatives funded by the Army to build a new

elementary school at Fort Stewart and an elementary/junior high school at Fort Bragg. DoDDS Pacific projects include a new elementary/military school at Naval Station Guam and a new elementary/high School in Taegu, Korea.

The FY 2007 MILCON Program includes the following projects: Improvements within DoDDS-E includes an addition at Rota High School, construction of a new middle school at Vicenza and renovations to the high school, and construction of a new elementary school at Vicenza (Army funded) for a total of \$54.508M. In DDESS, the Fort Knox High School will have a main school building. DoDDS-P will receive an addition to the Osan High School, and other unspecified minor military construction. These programs total \$77.671M.

During the MILCON Prioritization Meeting, there were projects estimated at \$536M. However, the funding guidance for FY 2008-2013 is estimated at \$198.539M. This includes funding for numerous projects in DoDDS-E and DDESS. It is believed that this will cover DoDEA's two most critical projects in the first two years, support the confirmed military restationing, support the enduring installations, recapitalizes square footage by replacing old inventory and satisfies 37% of current MILCON requirements.

(Item Closed)

#### DoDDS-E Force Transformation

Ms. Diana Ohman, Director, Department of Dependents Schools, Europe briefed the DoDDS-E Force Transformation. Currently within Europe there are 5 districts, 10 countries, and 109 schools and it is anticipated that DoDDS-E will be restructured to operate in 4 districts, 9 countries, with a total of 72 schools. It is anticipated that the Heidelberg District will eventually be dissolved and merged into the Bavaria district.

During the Summer of 2006, the Bavaria District Office will be relocating to Wuerzburg, Kitizingen ES and IS will close, a separate MS will be established in Grafenwoher and Boeblingen and Robinson Barracks will become a elementary and middle school

In the Heidelberg District, Babenhausen ES is closing, Bad Nauheim ES is closing, Gelnhausen ES and Sportfield ES are all closing and Hanau MS and HS will combine because of the small student population.

In the Isle district, Iceland ES and HS are closing, West Ruislip ES is closing, London Central HS will become a K-12 Unit School instead of just a HS, and the West Ruislip Elementary students will be attending school there; Geilenkirchen ES, AFNORTH ES, and AFNORTH HS will become part of the Kaiserslautern District.

Within the Mediterranean District, Gaeta ES/MS will become a K-6 elementary school. Lajes ES and HS will become a K-12 Unit School and move to the Isles District.

It is anticipated the Summer 2007 actions will include the following: Within the Heidelberg district, Giessen ES and MS/HS will close, and Butzbach ES will close. The Hanau schools may become a K-12 Unit school. It is estimated that approximately 1,100 soldiers will remain after Summer 2007. Darmstadt schools may also become a Unit School to service the dependents of the approximately 800 remaining soldiers.

There are no specific thresholds for school closures, however, based upon DoD Manual 1342.6-M, schools are allowed to closed when ES or ES/MS space requirements are less than 100 students. MS/HS or HS are allowed to close when the requirements are less than 300 space required students. If a middle school student population falls to 50 or below, DoDEA will evaluate the situation. When high schools fall below 75 students, it's very hard to maintain an acceptable curriculum, and to provide the number of teachers needed to teach that curriculum.

Ms. Ohman explained the many factors that come to bear regarding personnel when closing schools. DoDEA needs to ensure affected personnel are treated properly, while adhering to MOUs . DoDDS-E has successfully worked with Dr. Beraza, and to identify and fill vacancies in DDESS.

To assist students departing due to PCS moves, they may be allowed accelerated withdrawal up to 20 days providing all work including tests are made-up. The earliest withdrawal dates for SY 2006-07 are Dec 15, 2006 and May 18, 2007.

When the schools close there are other issues that must be resolved including, bus service, bus security, automated vehicle locator, facility maintenance, textbook buys, and computer leases.

Ms. Ohman noted that communications with the commands, districts, and local communities is necessary to ensure a smooth transition. She noted the School Liaison Officers were an invaluable part of the communications process liaising between communities, schools, and what's going on with the services.

(Item Open)

#### Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Pacific (DoDDS-P) Transformation

Dr. Nancy Bresell, Director, DoDDS-P provided the transformation briefing on actions within DoDDS-P. Regarding Korea, Dr. Bresell stated that upon completion of the Camp Humphreys Elementary School expansion, it will be able to accommodate 400



students in School Year 2006-07. However, during the next 3 to 4 years, the student population at Camp Humphreys is estimated to expand from a student population of 3,000 to 4,000.

The Yongsan relocation initiative calls for one high school, one middle school, and three elementary schools and they are planned for fiscal year 2008 at Camp Humphreys. The current Seoul complex has about 2,500 DoD students with Osan High School scheduled to have an addition added and ready for occupancy for school year 2008-09. At that time, Osan High School will become a 9 – 12 high school because there is Osan Middle School being planned that will be constructed from the Republic of Korea funds, thereby, establishing a separate middle school in Osan for about 350 students

A major item of interest is addressing the change in the overseas housing authority that became effective October 1, 2005, that encourages servicemen and women to bring non-command sponsored family members to Korea. Essentially, personnel now have an incentive to bring their families (at their own expense) to Korea even though they are on non-command sponsored tours; thus increasing the number of student age children. During the last school year there were 232 students in the non-command sponsored category and it is anticipated that this number will increase in the years ahead.

In Daegu, the Army has constructed three portable classrooms to help with the increased enrollment. The Daegu fiscal year 2006 MILCON addition will increase the capacity at Daegu to about 740 students; currently the enrollment is about 650. Pusan Elementary School closed this year (2006). The remaining children will attend either an international school if they remain in the Pusan community. The high school students from Chinhae will attend either an international school or have the option of attending Daegu, an approximate 2 hour commute from Chinhae.

A three-star billet is scheduled for Camp Zama, Japan. However, an exact date has not been established. The Naval Air Wing will be moving from Atsugi to Iwakuni around the year 2014. Plans are being developed to relocate the Marine units located in Okinawa and Iwakuni to the island of Guam. The foot print left vacant by the departure of the Marines is expected to be filled by Army units.

(Item Open)

#### Non-DoD School Program

Mr. Mike Lynch, Chief of Staff DoDEA briefed the Non-DoD School Program. He commented on the 2003-05 DEC review of English Speaking Countries. During this review, it was concluded that the public education in South Africa, Singapore, and Jamaica was inappropriate for American students. DoDEA would authorize private school placement for students in grades K-12.

The 2006 DEC issues would address the education in Canada, United Kingdom (UK), Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand. It was concluded that:

1. The program of instruction provided in state supported schools in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada is adequate and will provide American students with an appropriate education;

a. Transition to American schools may create issues for middle and high school age students;

b. Due to these transition issues, DoDEA guidance should recognize the difficulties middle and high school students may face when returning to the United States;

c. General Placement Guidance:

i. Public schools in Canada offer an appropriate education for students in Grades K-12;

ii. Within the UK, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand, students in grades K-5 will attend the public schools, students in grades 6-8 will attend private schools, and students in grades 9-12 will attend the in-theater dorm or private schools.

2. When warranted by unusual local educational or social circumstances, the Director, DoDEA has the authority to make exceptional arrangements for students in overseas areas not served by a DoD school.

The National Security Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, and National Geospatial Intelligence Agency expressed concern regarding these changes in the placement protocol asserting that it will, "...severely hamper their ability to recruit civilian employees for overseas assignments in those countries." They are requesting that DoD allow private school tuition support-reimbursements to continue. The Principal Director of National Intelligence (Acting) endorses this request and adds that DoDEA protocol would eliminate a benefit for DoD civilians that the State Department and other government agencies will continue to provide their employees thereby creating an "untenable inequity" and would also have significant security implications for non-DoD employees of the Intelligence Community.

DoD Intelligence Agencies are requesting an exception for personnel in UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada based on unique local circumstances. It is DoDEA recommendation that members in classified assignments have a blanket exception to allow their dependents to attend private schools. However, the sponsor's



agency would be required to verify that the member is in a classified position. A portion of the Non-DoD briefing and discussion were conducted in a classified, closed door session.

It was also noted that local exceptions were available in cases where there are significant problems documented by the National Accrediting Agency for both the available public school and the Local Education Authority.

Because of questions raised by the Intelligence Agencies and other questions related to DoD regulations addressing student eligibility and the future of the DoD London Central High School, DoDEA will:

1. Maintain past placement practices in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada for SY 06-07 and for the duration of the sponsor's current tour of duty in all of these locations.
2. Request for exception to the English-Speaking country protocol made by the sponsor's command/local agency head (O-6/7 or civilian equivalent) may be considered by the Director, DoDEA in cooperation with the Area Director in the following circumstances:
  - a. Significant problems are documented by a national accrediting/monitoring agency (e.g. Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) in the UK) for public schools and the LEA in the commuting area of the sponsor's residence.
  - b. The sponsor's command requests and participates in verification of the reasons for the exception by a joint DoDEA/Component Review.
1. DoDEA will accept at face value a request from a National Intelligence Agency for exceptional placement of students whose sponsors are in special positions.
2. DoDEA will implement the DEC endorsed placement protocol beginning in SY 07-08 but will consider extensions to future school years based on sponsor tour status, National Security Agencies proposed legislation, housing location etc. This will permit the intelligence agencies to pursue legislation and further recommendations to the Dependents Education Council in regard to the DoDEA placement policy.
3. Authorize exceptional arrangements for students in overseas areas not served by a DoD school.

It was noted that DoDEA will operate the London Central Dormitory through

June 2007 and students in UK and Ireland may attend the London Dorm or attend a private school near the sponsor's duty station during School Year 2006-07. The 2000 Department of State and PEP exception allows DoD personnel assigned to DoS and Exchange Officers to follow DoS guidelines rather than DoD guidelines.

Finally, Mr. Lynch related to the group that the Director, DoDEA has the authority to make exceptional arrangements for all students when warranted by unusual local educational or social circumstances, e.g., security concerns with the involvement of the sponsoring agency.

(Item Open)

#### Dormitory Future

Mr. Lynch briefed the future of the London Dormitory which is located at RAF Daws Hill and provides students in grades 9-12 with access to a high quality DoDEA education, coupled with extra-curricular and leisure time activities. Students of active duty military and DoD civilian employees, stationed in selected foreign countries, where appropriate English-language schools are not available, may apply for admission. There are two dormitory buildings and each building will accommodate 90 students. During the last year, the dormitory task force has been gathering information to determine if it is still feasible or necessary to continue to operate the dormitory.

With the closure of West Islip Elementary School at the end of SY 2005-06, the London Central School will become a K-12 school beginning in SY 2006-07. NAVEUR will continue to use and support the Daws Hill installation through June 2008. However, the drawdown of NAVEUR activities in Europe is expected to cause significant decreases in the number of dorm students which had a student population of 84 in SY 2005-06.

The task force recommended that the continued operation of the DoDEA Dorm be contingent on comprehensive medical/emergency care and all hotel services. If any of these services are interrupted, the dorm should cease operations. Assuming that NAVEUR continues to provide these services, the dorm should continue operations until June 2007. Alternative locations were reviewed but none were recommended for use.

The task force also recommended that effective next school year, students in UK/Ireland can either live in the dorm or receive reimbursement for a private school. DoDEA will continue its search to identify alternative dormitory facilities for the following school year. The task force also recommended that DoDEA examine requirements to support "extraordinary counseling staff" for the implementation period at non-DoD schools with dormitories in Europe. DoDEA will propose and seek to amend

legislation to permit placement of students in private schools with boarding facilities in CONUS.

(Item Open)

DoDEA's Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

Ms. Taffy Corrigan, Acting Associate Director for Education and Dr. Janet Rope, Administrator, System Accountability and Research briefed the CSP. Ms. Corrigan started the briefing by reviewing the current CSP, which is effective from 2001-06. The CSP is scheduled to expire at the end of this summer. The Current CSP has four goals which are (1) Highest Student Performance; (2) Performance-Driven, Efficient Management Systems; (3) Motivated High Performing, Diverse Workforce; and (4) a Network of Partnerships Promoting Achievement. Ms. Corrigan reminded the members that Goal 1 was really the most important goal because it is focused on the students. The other three goals are the support system that DoDEA has put into place. Under those four goals, there are seven outcomes that help to measure the things DoDEA wants to achieve.

Ms. Corrigan explained that during the last CSP presentation to the DEC in June 2005, she made the recommendation that DoDEA retain the same four goals, keep the outcomes, and that a Task Group convene and comb through and examine the new milestone chart and decide on any measures needed to be added. The Task Group composed of representatives from DoDEA, Command, and Services, met in February 2006 and made a decision on what they wanted to accomplish during the next 5 years.

While the CSP for 2006-11 contains the same four goals, additional measures have been added which include PK-2 selected subjects, reading at grade 9, and writing assessment at grades 5, 7, and 9.

Dr. Rope briefed the current CSP and how DoDEA fared based upon the established criteria. Additionally, she discussed the new CSP and identified the new measures that have been added. She discussed the previous goals and results, milestones, status and whether the milestones would remain as part of the 2006-11 CSP.

The CSP will be presented at the Worldwide Superintendents Meeting in July where a communication plan will be discussed for presenting it to the Military Commands, Parents, and Teachers. The CSP will be fully implemented in School Year 2006-07.

(Item Closed)

## DoDEA Summer School, 2006

Ms. Taffy Corrigan started the briefing by highlighting the results of DoDEA Summer School program for 2005. The K-8 Summer School Program was a 4 week, ½ day program designed for education enrichment. The average attendance was 6,332 students, approximate 84.6% of enrolled students.

The high school online program covered subjects in English, math, social studies and science courses. It was designed to target students who have failed or had problems obtaining the required grade of 2.0. There was a low withdrawal rate of 7% and a total of 118 students earned grades of A, B, or C.

The K-8 Summer School Program for 2006 is very similar to the 2005 Summer School structure. There is a new enrichment program from Voyager, the same company that supplied the materials last year. However, they have updated their course materials. Funding for this program will come from DoDEA Resources with an estimated cost of \$1.9 million.

The DEC requested a tracking of the 2006 Summer School students that took online courses, their school location, and the feasibility of having a classroom-based course at any of these locations. Dr. Tafoya answered that a classroom-based course would be costly, but DoDEA would research the issue and provide a cost analysis at the next meeting.

(Item Open)

## Foreign Language

Ms. Corrigan briefed the members on DoDEA's Foreign Language Initiative and how it is being updated in response to Dr. Chu's paper, "A Call to Action." DoDEA's goal is to implement continuous programs of study of critical need languages in grades K-12. This will be accomplished by building students capacity in foreign languages by starting language learning at the earliest age possible. Foreign language instruction will be implemented as an integral part of the core curriculum for all K-8 students. Increase the level of language proficiency and number of students participating in grades 9-12, and provide sufficient time and intensity for students to reach high levels of proficiency by graduation.

Currently at the elementary level, DoDEA has very little offerings which include a few host nations offerings in DoDDS and a few after school programs DoDEA wide. In our middle grades, approximately 23% of DoDEA students are actually taking a foreign language. Within the high schools about 65% of the students take a foreign language. Currently 2 years of the same foreign language is required to graduate.

Ms. Corrigan discussed DoDEA's "Proposed Rollout" and emphasized that it is really a "Vision" since all the funding has not yet been obtained. The Proposed Rollout spanned 7 years from School Year 2006 to School Year 2012.

The Foreign Language Elementary School (FLES) program will concentrate on the Spanish Language. This year there will be 27 (Europe 9, Pacific 8, DDESS 10) schools in DoDEA offering the FLES program.

Under the Proposed Rollout, the middle and high schools will concentrate on the strategic languages. Within the secondary schools this year, there will be a small pilot program that will test the Chinese Language program within six DoDEA schools. There will be two schools in DDESS and four schools in the Pacific offering these courses. During the summer, DoDEA and the Department of Education will offer training to teachers in the Chinese Language.

(Item Open)

Eligibility of Dependents of Appropriated Fund (APF), Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) Employees, and Contractor Personnel

Proposals previously endorsed by the Dependents Education Council regarding changes in the enrollment eligibility category status for dependents of APF/NAF and DoD contractors are now in the final stages of being incorporated into DoD and DoDEA policy.

These proposals include changing the enrollment category in DoDDS of dependents of full-time, locally hired Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriated Fund (APF) and Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) employees in overseas areas from Space-Available, Tuition Free to Space-Required, Tuition-Free. This change was authorized in the FY 2006 NDAA.

The proposal to change the enrollment category in DoDDS of dependents for dependents of DoD contractor personnel from Space-Available, Tuition Paying to Space-Guaranteed, Tuition-Paying due to an increased reliance on contractor employees in overseas areas. DoDDS will require a copy of either the Logistical Support Section of the contract authorizing dependent education in DoDDS on a tuition-paying basis or a Technical Expert Accreditation Status awarded to that sponsor, DD 1172-2 Common Access Identification Card Application or copy of the contractor's or contractor's spouses identification cards prior to enrollment.



DoDDS will begin to accommodate students in these categories beginning in SY 2006-07. Permanent implementation of both changes is dependent on the cancellation of DoD Directive 1342.13 and implementation of DoDEA Regulation 1342.13.

(Item Open)

Enrollment Eligibility for Minor Dependents of Foreign Military Members Assigned to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE)

Since 1967, minor dependents of foreign military students assigned at SHAPE have been attending DoDEA schools at SHAPE on a tuition-free basis based on a bi-lateral agreement between the country of Belgium and SHAPE. However, the Department of Defense is not bound by the bi-lateral agreement and by law and DoD regulation these students are only eligible for enrollment on a space-available, tuition-paying basis.

United States European Command (USEUCOM) has requested a change to Title 20, U.S.C. to authorize tuition-free enrollment at the Mons, Belgium, location only.

A legislative change was inserted into the Fiscal Year 2007 Unified Legislative and Budget (ULB) process to amend section 926 of Title 20 U.S.C. to authorize the space-required, tuition-free enrollment of a limited number of dependents of foreign military members who are assigned to SHAPE in Mons, Belgium. (Limited numbers may be defined as the historical average.) The change was included in the DoD FY 2007 NDAA submission.

In its reported version of HR 5122, the House Armed Services Committee included a provision which would permit tuition-free attendance at the SHAPE International School by children of foreign military members. Similar language originally appeared in the Senate Armed Services Committee version but disappeared in the final product. DoDEA will continue to monitor and provide information in support of this change.

(Item Open)

## Open discussions

During the open forum, it was suggested that the DoDEA teacher of the year be invited to attend the DEC and possibly become a member of the board.

There were comments concerning the Winter Break, how it is scheduled, and that it will have a negative impact on students and military families. Dr. Tafoya responded that while he was not personally involved in the planning of the calendar, it was his understanding that the calendar is developed many years in advance to allow all personnel to plan ahead. He stated that the calendar is a negotiated item and he would be willing to bring this issue up for discussion with the Union Representatives

There was a question regarding qualification for membership on the DEC and if a charter exists which governs membership of the DEC.

Comments arose regarding the Community Strategic Plan and whether it addresses students who have excelled. Dr. Tafoya responded that DoDEA has increased the number of AP offerings. There is a new honors program, although it's not a weighted course into our schools. DoDEA has a major effort underway to expand the number of AP courses and training teachers in those areas. The whole area of rigor within the curriculum is being addressed, subject by subject.

Finally, there were questions regarding the MILCON program. Clarification was requested regarding the two projects that were recognized as being the number one and number two priorities for DoDEA - the projects in Wiesbaden and the project at Fort Bragg, Irwin Middle School. Due to limited funding, DoDEA could not accommodate the two projects in 2008. During the MILCON meeting, it was decided that when the projects are reviewed next year, that those two projects were to remain locked as number one and two for FY 2008 and FY 2009 respectively. Unless additional money is available, only projects from FY 2010 and forward will be addressed. Major General Larsen highlighted the lack of MILCON projects in the Pacific and indicated that there should be projects for that area because things are changing in the Pacific.

Dr. Tafoya thanked all the participants for attending and the meeting was adjourned.

Joseph D. Tafoya  
Executive Secretary